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National standardization: office treatment of names

Shift from field work to crowdsourcing for toponymic data and map production in the Netherlands

Summary**

In the Netherlands, even though the cycle for updating topography was reduced from 12 years to 1 over the past decades, the field collection of geographical names came increasingly under pressure and, in 2009, was stopped. The yearly updated 360-degree street-view images used thereafter for updating topography were no solution, however, and more emphasis was therefore placed on the use of external data sources for enriching the TOP10NL database with names. For functional area features, the use of external data in combination with aerial images was helpful in transferring geometry from points to polygons and adding names. For the names of the most populated places and street names, a key register for addresses and buildings maintained by the municipalities was used as a source. However, many geographical names, such as of buildings and fields, could not be updated with the existing external data.

In the third quarter of 2016, a pilot project was launched, under which local historical societies were approached with a view to seeking their cooperation in checking the names in their areas. They were provided with maps of their working areas, lists of names from the TOP10NL database, a selection of unnamed features in that database and a brief instruction manual and requested to check existing names, add missing names and indicate the boundaries of area names. In the light of the successful outcome of the pilot project, the procedure is now being launched nationwide.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Jasper Hogerwerf (Netherlands), Kadaster. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/87/CRP.87.

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